

NATIONAL

- LABOR: Month Long Miner's Wildcat Strike Draws to Close Under Pressure of Companies, Courts and Union Leaders' 1200 wds/photo 3
- ATTICA: Rally for Attica Defendants; More Trials to Begin *250 wds.....5
- AMNESTY: Ford's Plan Fails Again; Thousands Drop Out of Program 400 wds.....6
- AGRIBUSINESS: Agriculture Dept. Defines Small Farms Out of Existence 650 wds.....7
- GAY RIGHTS: New York City Blocks Gay Rights Bill 550 wds.....7
- FOOD: FDA Places Limited Ban on Polyvinyl Chloride Food Packaging; Chemical Linked to Cancer 550 wds.....8
- HEALTH: Three More Common Chemical Thought To Be Cancerous 550 wds.....8
- MEDIA: Recycled Pentagon Spokesmen *100 wds.....8

POEM: "A Just Anger" by Marge Piercy 2

INTERNATIONAL

- COLOMBIA: Guerillas Assassinate Army General; 500 Arrested in Gov't Round-up 2100 wds/photos.....1
- LEBANON: Lebanon Verges on Civil War; Fighting Between Phalangists and Moslems Intensifies 2100 wds/map.....4
- PALESTINIANS: Resist Sinai Accords With Embassy Occupation in Madrid, Other Actions 750 wds/photo.....6

* Denotes short, 250 words or less

GRAPHICS

COVER: Photograph taken in Colombia in 1971.
CREDIT: Howie Epstein/LNS

- COLOMBIA: cover repeat..... P-1
- PALESTINIANS: anti-Sinai agreement demo photo P-1
- MID EAST: map showing new demarcation lines.. P-1
- MINING: W. Virginia photo..... P-1

FEATURE PAGE ABOUT WOMEN P-2



LNS

LIBERATION News Service September 17, 1975
160 Claremont Avenue #730
New York, New York 10027

Telephone: (212) 749-2200

Hours: 9 AM to 9 PM weekdays, except Wednesdays

STAFF COLLECTIVE: Minton Brooks, Ellen Garvey,
Cidne Hart, Sarah Plant, Barbara Plog, Sandy Shea,
Mike Shuster, Ron Sirak, Nancy Stiefel

COMRADES: Ron Alden, Judy Rabinovitz, Barbara Lou
Shafer, Milt Taam

CORRESPONDENTS: Scholfield Coryell--Paris

LIBERATION News Service, now in its ninth year,
publishes semi-weekly packets of news copy and
graphic material which are printed on Tuesdays
and Fridays.

Produced collectively, each packet contains
8 to 10 pages of single spaced copy and 1 to 3
pages of graphic material. The photographs are
half-tone on an 85-line screen.

Subscriptions to LNS: \$20/month, \$240/year.

LIBERATION News Service, 160 Claremont Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10027 Packet #730, September 17,
1975. Published twice a week except for the last
week in the month when it is published once a
week.

Copyright © by LNS News Service Inc.
Second Class Postage paid at New York, NY

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS

In #729, please add to the Table of Contents:

POEM: In the year of the victory in Viet Nam
by Roz Leiser 6

In #728, the Subway Fare Hike story on page 7
contains a discrepancy. To correct it, omit the
second paragraph (beginning with "And it costs one
quarter...") under the subheading What the Fare
Hike Will and Won't Do.

"... IT'S BAD"

*We want to tell you something about our money situation. . . it's bad.
Money has been coming in slowly all summer, and now many of our bills are
catching up to us. Unless our subscribers pay their outstanding bills
there is no way that we can pay our rent and telephone bills (both of which
are due) and no way we can get paper for our packets next week.*

*We are willing to work long hours to produce LNS, but we can't con-
tinue without the financial means to do it. We are able to continue our
twice weekly coverage largely because we have been sacrificing our \$40 a
week salary every other week. It just isn't possible to survive in New
York City this way (it costs \$1.00 for a 2-way trip on the subway now), and
without money coming in, we won't have paper or telephones either.*

Please help. Pay your bills. Do it now.

BASEMENT NOTES 9/17/75

In this packet we are featuring two inter-
national stories: one, Lebanon, is very much in
the news; the other, Colombia, has been largely
ignored by the press in the U.S.

The story on Lebanon contains news material
with background that can be run separately. Much
of the background was provided by MERIP (Middle
East Information and Research Project), a radical
research group. MERIP publishes a report ten
times a year which includes an in-depth feature
each issue (i.e., U.S. arms deals to the Mid East,
Saudi Arabia, etc.) and a brief section on current
events.

MERIP Reports #19, published two years ago,
featured "The Coming Crisis in Lebanon," which
remains an invaluable tool for understanding the
current situation, the complex Lebanese political
system, and the particular role Lebanon plays as a
center for American and European finance capital
in the Mid East. Subscriptions to MERIP (\$6.00
per year) and other literature and books distri-
buted by MERIP, are available by writing to them
at Box 3122 Columbia Station, Washington DC 20010.

As for Colombia, we're pleased to run the
special report direct from Bogota, particularly
because we've seen very little coverage of the
recent guerilla activity and the Colombian gov-
ernment's harsh repression.

Note the page of drawings of women in this
packet. We'll take this chance to encourage all
women who take photographs, draw or doodle to
send us their work. We'd really like to see it.

So long,

LNS

IF YOU ARE MISSING A PAGE OR GET A BADLY PRINTED GRAPHIC LET US KNOW AND WE'LL SEND YOU ANOTHER ONE SOON

[See graphics for photos to go with this story.]

COLOMBIAN GUERILLAS ASSASSINATE ARMY GENERAL; 500 ARRESTED IN GOV'T ROUNDUP

(Editor's note: The following article was sent to Liberation News Service from Bogota. The author has asked us not to use his name.)

BOGOTA, Colombia (LNS)--The assassination of Major General Ramon Arturo Rincon Quinones September 8 by the Army of National Liberation (ELN) has set off a new wave of repression in Colombia, already under state of siege since early July.

In an immediate counteroffensive against "social delinquents," the army and the national police have arrested more than 500 people in this capital city, including 20 leftist intellectuals and university professors suspected of ties with the ELN. The prisoners also include four ELN militants who escaped from prison in February, 1974 and have been accused of conspiracy in the assassination.

The Liberal government of President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen has also announced that it will take the "most drastic" action against subversives, "more severe" than state of siege and including new measures to control the public order and a new offensive against the urban guerillas.

According to the ELN communique which took credit for the killing of Rincon Quinones, the general had dedicated himself to "oppress and subjugate" the Colombian people in the service of the "oligarchy and yankee imperialism." He made his reputation fighting guerillas in the most contested regions of the country and had been sentenced to death by both the ELN and the Armed Forces of the Colombian Revolution (FARC).

The sentence was carried out at eight in the morning, when three men executed the general as he was being chauffeured to work, without escort, through the northwest side of Bogota. The guerillas escaped in a yellow Renault, abandoned it a few blocks away for another car and as of September 12, are still free.

A former subordinate of Rincon Quinones, Colonel Jose Joaquin Romero, was seriously wounded by the ELN in a similar attack May 18 in Barranquilla.

The four ELN militants captured a few days ago in Bogota are Claudio Leon Mantilla, Jorge E. Granados, Eusebio Barrerra and Daniel Serrano. Mantilla has been accused of being the head of the ELN's urban organization in Bucaramanga, later the chief of the ELN organization in Bogota and planning the 1971 assassination attempt against then Army chief of staff Valencia Tovar.

Colombia has been in state of siege since July 2 when a popular wave of strikes, kidnappings, guerilla successes and student demonstrations forced the Lopez government to suspend rights of assembly and establish military justice for a wide variety of offenses. Since then, more than a thousand peasants, union leaders and suspected guerilla cadres have been jailed. However, guerilla activity has continued, as have the strikes and student unrest, while the kidnapping and general street crime have increased.

Rincon Quinones: Made Career of Counterinsurgency

As commander of the Army's Fifth Brigade, Rincon Quinones masterminded a sweeping reduction of the ELN's urban network in Santander, a center of guerilla

activity in northern Colombia. Here in 1973 he garnered many laurels for detaining more than 200 people as ELN subversives, condemning 53 of them to prison in a mass court martial in the town of El Socorro. Many of the detainees charged that torture had been used against them. Most were later set free by civilian courts.

As a colonel, Rincon Quinones also played an important role in the reduction of the independent peasant republics in southern Colombia in 1964, the first time that U.S. counterinsurgency tactics, including napalm, were used on a large scale by the Colombian military against the countryside.

Here, in the departments of Huila and Tolima, the late general served as second in command to his close associate General Alvaro Valencia Tovar, the Army chief of staff whose sudden retirement in May is thought to have been due to plotting a coup against the Liberal government. In 1971 Valencia Tovar was shot four times by the ELN in an attempt on his life but managed to survive.

At the time of his death Rincon Quinones was inspector general of the Colombian army. Like many other officers in the Colombian military, he had received training in both the United States and the Canal Zone, and was actually nicknamed "Stettinius" after his close resemblance to Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Secretary of War. In 1973 he was bitten on the finger by an armadillo, developed a rare infection and reportedly owed his life to a trip to a military hospital in the U.S.

Guerillas Active

Fifteen years after the arrival of the U.S. military mission here in 1959, those "red spots" on the map of Colombia still exist, sustained by the ELN, the FARC and the Army of Popular Liberation (EPL). Although the small guerilla focos of fifty or one hundred combatants must maintain nearly constant movement in order to avoid being trapped, their occupations of small towns and villages have kept large tracts of the Colombian countryside under permanent militarization.

As the Minister of War, General Varon Valencia, told the Colombian Senate in July, "the guerillas roam freely through wide regions because the peasants support them."

On February 13 of this year an ELN foco under the leadership of Fabio Vazquez Castano, founder of the organization, occupied the town of Morales along the lower Magdalena River, in the same region where Rincon Quinones commanded the Fifth Brigade two years ago. June 10 Castano's force occupied three villages in the same area, executed two government informants, expropriated 100,000 pesos (\$3,250) from a large landowner, and distributed food to the population.

August 18 the ELN liberated the village of Monterrey, executing another government informer and kidnapping the son of a hacienda owner. Although 4,000 soldiers have been sent into the region, the guerillas have managed to avoid encirclement and have staged several ambushes in which the government suffered casualties.

Farther to the west in Antioquia, incursions of the FARC's Fifth Front, under the leadership of

Nestor "One-Eyed Tiger" Arenas, have forced hacienda owners to abandon their plantations. In recent weeks the FARC has expropriated 4 million pesos (\$130,000) from a Bank of Colombia payroll and executed nine members of the government's Civil Defense. The FARC also has fronts in the south of Colombia, in Huila, Tolima and the Cauca.

The FARC was founded in 1964, out of the peasant families which the Colombian army drove from the independent republics. Unlike the ELN and the EPL, which had their origins in student movements in the cities, the FARC is composed almost entirely of poor country people.

The ELN was founded in 1962 by Vazquez Castano and later affiliated itself with the United Front of the Catholic priest Camillo Torres, killed in action with the ELN in February, 1966. The Maoist EPL had its origin during the same period in the now disbanded Workers, Students and Peasants Movement (MOEC), but like the ELN maintains ties with various leftist organizations in the cities.

Urban cells of both the ELN and the EPL are thought to have been active in the kidnappings of industrialists and hacienda owners, occurring at the rate of one or two a week, and at least some of these have been financing the underground organizations.

The Sears Roebuck executive kidnapped August 6, Donald Cooper, is thought to be in the hands of one of these groups, although neither has claimed responsibility and no ransom demands have been made public.

While the ELN and the FARC have been scoring successes in the countryside this year, the EPL has suffered several reverses in the cities. July 28 one of its directors, Pedro Leon Arboleda, was trapped in a Cali suburb and died after two hours of resistance against 500 soldiers. A week later in Medellin an EPL meeting was betrayed and 35 people arrested.

The Colombian Army's Tactics

Something of the Colombian army's methods against the guerillas can be gathered from its largest counterinsurgency effort in recent years, the September, 1973 Operation ANORI in which 18,000 soldiers were sent into the mountains of northeast Antioquia pursuing an ill-equipped, poorly led ELN foco numbering approximately fifty. The operation has been described in detail in two remarkable articles written anonymously by soldiers and former soldiers for the leftist biweekly Alternativa del Pueblo.

According to this report, the ANORI operation began with massive and brutal interrogations of town inhabitants in the area of ELN influence, in order to break and infiltrate their urban network. The army then moved on to daily roundups of peasants, in order to detect the ELN's closest collaborators. According to the soldiers, hundreds of poverty-stricken country people were subject to detainment for weeks on end, deprived of adequate food and shelter, threatened with imprisonment, loss of their goods or banishment from the region.

The peasants were also subjected to a wide variety of tortures, including cigarette burns, Vietnam-style water torture, hangings and rackings, attacks by police dogs and interrogations aboard helicopters.

The result of these tactics, added to blunders on the part of the guerillas, was the encirclement and virtual wiping out of the ELN foco, with the capture or death of 30 guerillas -- at the cost of 100 casualties to the army. This was also the operation in which the army trapped and killed two of Vazquez Castano's brothers, Manuel and Antonio Vazquez. According to the anonymous military sources, the two were killed on direct orders from the commanders of the operation after they tried to surrender.

SOLDIERS & POLICE BREAK UP COLOMBIAN DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST 1973 CHILEAN COUP

BOGOTA, Colombia (LNS)--State of siege was greatly in evidence here September 11 as 2,000 soldiers and national police occupied the center of the city to suppress a rally in commemoration of the fall of Chile.

Demonstrations and confrontations with authorities were also reported in eleven other cities, the most violent at the University of Caldas where ten police were hurt and dozens of students taken into custody.

In Bogota 74 people were reported detained after a march into the commercial district. The demonstration was originally planned for the steps of the railroad station, but was prevented from taking place by 200 heavily armed national police equipped with machine gun-bearing jeeps.

A handful of people nevertheless managed to take to one of Bogota's main avenues a few blocks away and, marching into the heart of the commercial district, swell their numbers to one thousand. They were dispersed by platoons of police and soldiers at dusk, who continued to roam the center throughout the night arresting people.

In Manizales the confrontation between police and students took place outside a stadium where a soccer match was taking place, leading to an accidental gassing of the spectators.

--30--

A JUST ANGER by Marge Piercy

Anger shines through me.
Anger shines through me.
I am a burning bush.
My rage is a cloud of flame.
My rage is a cloud of flame.
in which I walk
seeking justice
like a precipice.
How the streets
of the iron city
flicker, flicker,
and the dirty air fumes.
Anger storms
between me and things,
transfiguring,
transfiguring.
A good anger acted upon
is beautiful as lightning
and swift with power.
A good anger swallowed,
a good anger swallowed
clots of blood
to slime.

MONTH LONG MINERS' WILDCAT STRIKE
DRAWS TO A CLOSE UNDER PRESSURE
FROM COMPANIES, COURTS, AND UNION LEADERSHIP

NEW YORK (LNS) -- The wildcat strike by bituminous coal miners which began over a month ago and at its peak included two-thirds of the miners in the country, is now winding down. The rank and file led strike was directed against the United Mine Workers union (UMW) as well as the coal companies.

The strike was sparked by the slow and inefficient procedure for settling grievances. The December, 1974 contract, which ended a 24 day strike, included a new grievance Appeals Board to be established in each of the union's districts within two months. But seven months after the contract was signed, neither the coal operators nor the UMW had made any effort to appoint their representatives to the Appeals Boards for many of the union's districts.

The grievance issue is of great concern to the miners as many grievances are filed to improve safety conditions. Miners face the highest rate of work-related accidents in the country. During last year's strike many miners opposed the new contract because it didn't grant the right to strike over local issues.

Wildcat strikes occur often in the mines, sometimes once or twice a week. This wildcat spread to seven states and 80,000 miners, however, when the coal company at the first mine struck in West Virginia immediately went to court to get an injunction against the strikers rather than meeting with them to work out a local settlement.

The injunction was granted on the basis of the 1970 Supreme Court "Boys Market" case which ruled that a no-strike clause exists whenever management has agreed to a binding arbitration and grievance process. As a result, management can automatically obtain a federal injunction when a local wildcat occurs over an "arbitratable" matter--which includes just about every issue involved in mining, according to the courts.

In response to the swift court injunction deeming the strike "illegal," the "right to strike" demand, brought out during the 1974 contract dispute was raised again and spread quickly. Miners held numerous rallies demanding the right to strike over local grievances during August and early September.

After shutting down mines in West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Illinois, and Indiana, the strike is now ending. Shortly after Labor Day, most miners except for 30,000 in West Virginia began returning to work. The strike wound down after intense pressure was exerted by the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. The operators sought injunctions against the miners in each mine that was struck. By August 22, less than two weeks after the strike began, the courts had issued injunctions ordering the miners back to work and prohibiting picketing at thirty-eight West Virginia UMW locals, leveling fines up to \$9,000 against some.

As soon as a mine went out, the workers were hit with injunctions declaring their strike illegal. The courts used the injunctions to round up the rank and file leaders, cite them with contempt of court, fine them and put them in jail.

On August 27, U.S. District Court Judge K.K. Hall slapped fines of \$500 each on four striking miners, Adam Brumfield, Robbie Campbell, Thomas Bailey, and James Osborne. A week later, two leaders of the right to strike movement, Bruce Miller and Lewis (Skip)

Delano, were fined \$500 each and given maximum six month jail sentences by Judge Hall for violation of injunctions and participating in strike rallies.

Two reporters for the Charleston Gazette, Andrew Gallagher and Rick Steelhammer, were also jailed for up to six months for refusing to testify on articles they wrote about the rallies in which Miller and Delano allegedly participated.

The only demand that the strikers made any progress with was the implementation of the promised "streamlined" grievance procedure. After three weeks of the strike the companies and the UMW finally began to set up the grievance Appeals Board in West Virginia's District 17 where the strike began. The board has begun to process the hundreds of backlogged grievances.

As for the demands to stop the court injunctions and permit the right to strike over local issues, the miners may have lost more than they gained. On these issues the rank and file appears to be fighting the reform leadership of their union as well as the companies. By the end of August the UMW Executive Board voted to order all miners back to work. On September 5, 250 elected officials of District 17 met and agreed to return to work and called for the punishment of the strike leaders.

Then on September 8 the UMW's Executive Board passed a tough resolution aimed at halting wide-ranging strikes in the future. The Executive Board's action "seemed to approach the action many industry officials have been urging the union to take to stop the unauthorized strikes," according to the Wall Street Journal.

The UMW resolution provides that in "emergency instances" the Executive Board has the right to "try charges against members who by their actions seriously jeopardize the integrity of the union." Thus, in future wildcat strikes, punitive action may be taken against the miners, not only by the companies and the courts, but by their own union.

The resolution intends to restrict the ability of wildcats to spread quickly by nullifying the coal field tradition that when miners on one shift strike, the miners on the following two shifts go out. In addition, funds from the international union or from the UMW districts can not be used to defend miners charged with picketing at mines other than their own or to pay fines resulting from strikes.

As the miners return to work, many still face threats to their job security and working conditions. Impending cutbacks in mine operations are still unresolved.

When the Amherst Coal Company in Logan County, West Virginia announced that it intended to shut down two of its deep mines and open a far smaller staffed strip mine, the workers at Amherst's Lundale mine began to organize against the threat to their jobs. One woman in Logan County explained, "Six men and about three pieces of machinery can run a strip mine. It's cheaper coal--it's not as good--but they can do it a lot quicker and a lot more profitably."

One of the Lundale mine leaders, Roger Thompson, was suspended on August 4 for "interfering with mine operations." Thompson reportedly told the union local that either all miners would work or none would. His local walked out the next day, beginning the month long, 80,000 strong wildcat strike.

-30-

[See graphics in this packet.]

LEBANON VERGES ON CIVIL WAR AS FIGHTING BETWEEN PHALANGISTS AND MOSLEMS INTENSIFIES

NEW YORK (LNS)--Major fighting erupted between leftist Moslems and right-wing Christian Phalangists in Lebanon for the fourth time this year in early September. Over 140 people have been killed and 300 injured in gunbattles which were still continuing on September 16.

The presence of the 300,000 Palestinians within Lebanon has weakened the Right, finally causing the Phalangist Party to be excluded, for the first time since 1958, from the new government formed in July. The Phalangists, whose political base has been diminished, is now relying on its militia to force the Palestinian liberation movement out of the country.

The Lebanese Army entered the fighting for the first time on September 14, killing at least 12 Moslems in a gun battle on a coastal route outside Beirut. In retaliation, Moslems attacked before dawn on September 15 virtually every police station in Beirut, occupying and barricading themselves inside many of them, and holding at least 20 police hostage.

The Army's intervention into the fighting and the subsequent occupation of the police stations, have threatened to make this latest episode even bloodier than the fighting earlier this year which left 2500 dead and thousands more wounded.

The country has been in a virtual state of civil war since the April 13 assassinations of 27 Palestinians by Phalangists outside Beirut. The Palestinians were returning from a political rally in a bus when they were forced out and gunned down by machine gun fire. The incident touched off three months of bloody fighting.

A similar massacre brought the recent fighting to a head. On September 7, Christians abducted 12 Moslems from the northern coastal city of Tripoli to the nearby Christian mountain village of Zgharta, and gunned them to death. Immediately following the incident, an armed militia of 3000 Moslems took up positions around Zgharta and 2000 armed Christians were reported to have been in positions defending the city.

The Christians cut off the entire water supply for Tripoli (Lebanon's second largest city and predominantly Moslem) from their mountain stronghold on September 9. Christians shelled Tripoli heavily for four days.

The Tripoli confrontation caused the first major crisis for the government of Prime Minister Rashid Karami which took power in early July. Karami, a Moslem sympathetic to the Palestinians living in Lebanon, is also a native of Tripoli and was at one time the commander of the militia which had encircled Zgharta.

Karami was reluctant to send the Lebanese Army to Tripoli because the officer corps is 80% Christians and thought to be sympathetic to the Phalange. Lebanon's Christian President Suleiman Franjeh finally dispatched the Army on September 12, but with instructions from Karami to keep a "low profile" and only set up a "buffer" between the two militias.

Until the incident on September 14, there were hopes that the fighting which had been confined to Tripoli would not spread. But given Lebanon's key position as a western economic outpost in the Middle East, some observers say that outside forces may become involved in the rapidly deteriorating situation.

Israeli Attacks

As in other periods of intense fighting this year -- mid-April, late May and late June/early July -- Israel took advantage of the situation to stage increased land, aerial and naval attacks against Palestinian settlements in southern Lebanon. Israeli planes bombed the Palestinian refugee camp of Burhuliyah on September 11 for the third time since the fighting in northern Lebanon resumed, killing three children and destroying houses and crops.

Incidents such as this, and two exceptionally large Israeli attacks in late May and early July involving hundreds of ground troops, armored personnel carriers, low flying planes and helicopters, have prompted many Lebanese leaders to conclude that the Phalangists and the Israelis have been coordinating their attacks, with possible assistance from the U.S.

The Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP, a radical research group) reported from Beirut in early 1975 -- before the April fighting started, that "leaflets in Arabic dropped by Israelis incite the Lebanese populace against the Palestinians. This is part of an Israeli strategy of creating conflict in Lebanon. . ."

And after the September 11 Israeli raid, the New York Times reported that a high-ranking Israeli military officer said the "action no doubt helped the Christians in the north."

Israel says its near daily strikes and shellings of southern Lebanese villages are either retaliatory or preventative measures taken against Palestinian guerillas which Israel claims use southern Lebanon as a staging area for their strikes against Israel.

While the Platestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) is the unifying force among both Palestinians and Shia Moslems in southern Lebanon, and while the PLO has staged raids from Lebanon in the past, PLO's chairman Yassar Arafat says most of the guerilla activity now taking place in Israel originates inside Israel itself, sometimes with the collaboration of leftist Israeli Jews.

Shia Moslems who have formed an alliance with the Palestinians, believe the Israelis intend to annex southern Lebanon in the near future, and say strikes against Shia villages are an attempt to drive the Shia peasants further north.

Kamal Jumblatt, leader of the National Progressive Front, the major Lebanese leftist parliamentary grouping, said on June 4 in reference to the late May fighting, "from our intelligence, it appears that the Phalangists are in rapport with the Israelis and have received arms and ammunition from the CIA." MERIP reported "shiploads of armaments" were unloaded by Phalangists in the summer of 1974, and Jamblatt said a Lebanese air base and the port city of Junize were the entry points for the Phalangists' arms supply.

Jamblatt's charges appeared confirmed by reports released in late July that the U.S. State Department granted an unusually quick decision to export 2,000 Colt firearms and hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition to an obscure Lebanese arms dealer right before the height of the May fighting.

Another incident never adequately explained by the United States was the appearance in Lebanon during the late June fighting of U.S. Army colonial Ern-

WHAT IS THE PHALANGE?

The Lebanese Phalange Party is a well-financed, extreme right-wing minority party which has had members in key Lebanese cabinet positions from 1988 to May, 1975. Contrary to impressions in the Western press, only a small minority of Christians belong to the Phalange, although it is considered to be the most influential of the Christian parties because of its organization and armed militia.

The party was formed by its present leader Pierre Gemayel in 1936, after a visit to Germany where he was impressed by the Nazi youth groups. Gemayel modeled his party after the fascist Phalange parties in Spain and France which were flourishing at the time.

The Phalange did not become a significant force in Lebanon or the Maronite Christian community, its main constituency, until after the 1958 civil war during which 10,000 U.S. Marines landed in Beirut "to protect American lives." Gemayel was at that time the Interior Secretary, a key internal security post. The presence of U.S. troops at the behest of Gemayel tipped the balance of forces against progressive nationalists led by Rashid Karami (the current prime minister) in favor of the Lebanese Army and the right-wing militia.

Lebanese President Camille Chaumoun, in return for the Phalange opposition to nationalist forces, awarded other key cabinet posts to the Phalange Party. Since then, and until they were forced out of the government in May, 1975, the Phalange has held at least two or three key cabinet posts, though they have only a few elected members in the Lebanese Parliament.

Much of the Phalange strength lies in its militia. At 16,000 strong, it is considered by some to be as well organized and equipped as the Lebanese Army itself. The Phalange supports the army however, and in the fighting in 1973 which killed over 2,000 people, the Phalange and the Army cooperated in military maneuvers against Palestinians.

est Morgan, who was subsequently kidnapped by Palestinians not connected to the PLO and held for 13 days. Morgan was abducted while in the vicinity of a large Palestinian base and admitted to his abductors that he was a spy, though he retracted the statement upon his release.

Class War, Not A Religious One

The Phalange wants to put the country's 300,000 Palestinians under army control, and to expel the Palestine Liberation Army from the country. Although representing only a small minority of Christians, the Phalange has been trying to whip up animosity towards Moslems in general and Palestinians in particular, blaming the Palestinians for the country's economic crisis and Israeli attacks.

MERIP correspondents in Lebanon reported in May that "(Phalangist) functionaries distributed leaflets in the Christian mountain areas calling on people to take up arms in defense of their Christian brethren who were allegedly being massacred by Muslims in Beirut. They tolled the church bells and incited people in rallies to take up arms."

The main factor in the conflict is not relig-

ious however, and even the New York Times admitted that the fighting is "something of a class warfare between the haves and the have-nots."

Shia, Sunni and Druze Moslems, all with intense religious rivalries, have united because they form the poorest sectors of Lebanon's lopsided economy. Sunni Moslems have taken the brunt of the current fighting in northern Lebanon with the Phalangists. And the desperately poor Shia Moslems inhabiting the south have had their villages indiscriminately attacked by Israelis in an apparent attempt to drive the Shiites from southern Lebanon.

According to MERIP, growing dissatisfaction among poorer Christians with right wing groups has led to the emergence of Christian groups seeking to aid the Palestinians in Lebanon.

MERIP also reports the emergence of a liberal wing within the Phalange which advocated dialogue with the Palestinians. This challenge to the right-wing Phalange leadership has wrecked the Phalange as a viable political party, MERIP says, and the current attacks by the Phalange are believed to be an indication that its leadership is now relying on its militia, rather than popular strength.

* * *

(Thanks to MERIP and Internews for some of the information in this story.)

--30--

RALLY FOR ATTICA DEFENDANTS

NEW YORK (LNS)--A rally in Buffalo, New York demanding "total amnesty for Attica Brothers" and a march to a local police station demanding an end to "repression in our communities" marked the fourth anniversary of the Attica prisoners' uprising.

Speaking in support of these demands and in "support of all prison struggles" at the September 13 rally were Reverend Strobe Smith, who is the mother of recently acquitted Attica defendant Shango, and Belén Molinari, a representative of the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee (PSC). The PSC has been demanding the release of five Puerto Rican nationalists imprisoned in the U.S. since the early 1950's. Among other speakers at the rally of 300 supporters were defense attorney William Kunstler and Attica Brothers Big Black and Akil.

Meanwhile, the trial of Jomo Joka Omowale on charges of kidnapping and murder began on September 15 in the Erie County Courthouse in Buffalo. In a statement to the press the Attica Bond to Free Jomo stated that "the case against Jomo is based entirely on witnesses who have already testified against Shango and others, and whose testimony was totally rejected by at least one jury."

--30--

PLEASE FOLKS, Try extra hard to clear up your back bills and to pay your current bills on time. We really need everyone to carry their share.

PLEASE HELP!!!

(See packet #728 for story on the accords.)

PALESTINIANS RESIST SINAI ACCORDS

NEW YORK (LNS) -- In the aftermath of the Israeli-Egyptian agreement on the Sinai Peninsula, Palestinians and other Arabs have staged actions and rallies throughout Europe and the Mideast protesting the agreement.

In Madrid on September 15, where only days earlier Arab students staged a militant demonstration despite laws forbidding it, a group of five Palestinians occupied the Egyptian embassy, taking the Egyptian ambassador to Spain and two other high ranking Egyptian officials hostage. The ambassador, Mahmoud Abdul Ghaffar, is an in-law to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

The Palestinians demanded that Egypt withdraw its delegation (which had been discussing protocol and implementation of the Sinai Accord with Israel) from Geneva, and to return to Egypt without signing the implementation agreement. They also demanded a public statement from the Egyptian delegation in Geneva denouncing the agreement as a "betrayal of the Egyptian and Arab people."

While six Arab ambassadors in Madrid, including the abducted Egyptian ambassador, issued a declaration condemning the agreement, Radio Cairo said that the Egyptian government would not change its foreign policy.

In Cairo, the Egyptian news agency said that the government would hold "Yassar Arafat (Palestine Liberation Organization chairman) and all Palestinians responsible" for the occupation of the embassy. Arafat denied that the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) had anything to do with the occupation, and he issued a statement from Beirut, Lebanon, that the PLO rejected Cairo's remarks, "especially the threats they implied."

Only three days earlier, on September 12, the Egyptian government closed down the "Voice of Palestine" transmitters in Cairo, thus ending almost twenty years of broadcasts by the Palestinians.

Other Actions

Another group of about 50 Arabian students occupied the offices of the Arab League in Madrid simultaneously with the Palestinian occupation of the embassy. The students said the two actions were unrelated, but after occupying the Arab League for two hours, the students left with a statement strongly condemning the Israeli-Egyptian agreement.

Large demonstrations were staged by Arabs and Palestinians in several European cities including Rome, Madrid and several in France. Other larger demonstrations and rallies took place in Iraq, Syria, Algeria, Libya and Lebanon.

And in New York City, about 150 Palestinians, Arabs and supporters marched twenty blocks from the United Nations through New York's fashionable East Side to the Egyptian Mission, chanting "Palestine Yes, Israel No!" and "Sadat Is A U.S. Puppet." At the Egyptian Mission, demonstrators read over loudspeakers in Arabic, a letter from the coalition of Arab groups supporting the demonstration.

The letter condemned the Sinai agreement as a "capitulation" and condemned Egypt for bargaining with Henry Kissinger "the butcher of Indochina and Chilean people and arch-enemy of the rising colonial peoples everywhere."

In related developments, the countries of Libya, Algeria and People's Republic of Yemen issued statements reaffirming their commitments to the Palestinian struggle. And, in their strongest warning since the agreement, a PLO newspaper from Beirut warned that the American radar technicians stationed in the Sinai as a result of the agreement, would be regarded by the PLO as an "enemy target that should be shot." -30-

FORD'S "AMNESTY" PLAN FAILS AGAIN

NEW YORK(LNS)--President Ford's Clemency Board officially folded on September 15 and with it came to light yet another example of the failure of the "earned re-entry" program for Vietnam-era draft resisters and deserters.

According to government figures, 60% of the 5,555 military deserters who joined the government's "amnesty program" have stopped performing alternative service--work that was assigned for periods up to 24 months to earn the participant a "clemency pardon" in place of a dishonorable discharge. The government can't prosecute program drop outs since they have all been officially discharged from the service.

"The government had already wasted five years and seven months of my life by forcing me into Canada," a deserter Gary Della Bitta told the New York Times. "I finally decided I couldn't go on letting the government ruin my life."

The drop out rate for other categories of the re-entry program--draft resisters, non-registrants and resisters who have already served time in prison--has not been tabulated. It is expected to be lower than that of deserters, however, since these participants are liable for prosecution if they drop out.

But all in all, less than one fifth of the more than 120,000 people the government said were eligible for the program even applied for it.

"I'm not surprised," about the 60% drop out rate for deserters, said a spokeswoman for the National Committee for Universal Unconditional Amnesty (NCUUA) in New York. "The government built that loophole into the program to entice deserters. They knew they couldn't prosecute. The program is a failure. It's horribly inequitable that the deserters can get off and that draft resisters can still be prosecuted. But then, this was not an amnesty program. The President's program is called 'earned re-entry'."

"Our work is cut out for us," she continued, "to work for universal, unconditional amnesty."

* * *

The National Committee on Universal Unconditional Amnesty stresses that those resisters or deserters who need help should contact them at 235 E. 49th St., New York, N.Y. 10017 (212) 371-7080

-30-

PLEASE PAY YOUR SEPTEMBER BILLS RIGHT AWAY.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT MANIPULATES STATISTICS:
SMALL FARMS DEFINED OUT OF EXISTENCE

NEW YORK(LNS)--The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Bureau of the Census announced a change in the official definition of a "farm" on August 13 which will eliminate up to 565,600 farms from the official statistics.

According to the new definition, "farms" refers only to those that produce \$1000 or more per year in cash sales. Previously \$50 in cash sales a year off of 10 acres, or \$250 a year off of less than 10 acres would have been enough to qualify as a "farm."

An internal fact sheet on the change estimated that the number of officially recognized farms in the U.S. would decrease by 16 to 20 per cent as a result of this statistical maneuver. However, since this 16 to 20 per cent accounts for only about one half of one per cent of total U.S. farm income, its disappearance from U.S. farm statistics will significantly increase the official average farm in income.

"I think it's significant--particularly psychologically," said Susan Sechler of the Agribusiness Accountability Project in Washington, D.C. "It's sort of like a catch-22. You do practically nothing for the little farmers, ...and then you define them out of existence."

"It's one of a series of moves in trying to make the food economy like other economies," she continued. "By taking away demographic aspects of the census, they're not talking about farming as people, but as business."

"There's not enough information about rural America," Sechler added, further criticizing the change. "At a time when trends in farming are changing very quickly, we need the census to tell us more."

"The trend is for farms to get bigger, for more corporations to enter farm production, and to vertically integrate with other food processing industries," she explained. "This information could easily be in the census, but it's not reported. Corporations are not required to answer census questions about whether they are involved in farming."

A USDA study showed that in 1969, 410 conglomerates involved in agriculture (among other things) had gross agricultural sales of approximately \$3.3 billion. They counted for \$1 out of every \$14 worth of products sold by all U.S. farming operations. Of these 410 conglomerates, only 149 were primarily engaged in farming. And the \$3.3 billion in farm sales accounted for only 5.5 per cent of the overall sales volume of these 410 corporations.

USDA statistics also show that corporate control of U.S. agriculture has been increasing. The number of farms with less than \$2500 in annual sales dropped from 1.85 million in 1960 to 707,000 last year, and their sales fell from 5.8 per cent of total U.S. agricultural production to .9 per cent.

These farms comprised 46.6 per cent of the total farms 15 years ago, but only 25 per cent last year.

By contrast, farms with at least \$100,000 in annual sales comprised .6 per cent of the total number in 1960 and 17.3 per cent of the cash receipts. By last year, these large farms comprised 4.1 per cent of the total number of farms and took in 47.4 per cent of the cash receipts.

-30-

NEW YORK CITY BLOCKS GAY RIGHTS BILL

NEW YORK(LNS)--For the fifth time in the last four years, the New York City Council General Welfare Committee blocked the passage of a gay rights bill which would extend civil rights protection to New York City's estimated one million gay people.

At 1A.M. on September 12, after 14 hours of emotional hearings during which opponents of the legislation denounced homosexuality on moral and biblical grounds, the Committee voted 7-4 against sending the legislation on to the City Council.

The measure, which would have amended the city's human rights law to bar discrimination on the basis of "sexual orientation", is similar to bills which have passed in over 20 cities around the country--among these Washington D.C., Detroit, San Francisco, and East Lansing, Michigan. It would have empowered the city's human rights commission to look into discrimination against gays, for example in housing and employment.

Explaining the significance of the bill, Loretta Lottman of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF), said, "Many gays in New York are waiting to come out until there's some recognition of our rights. Otherwise our complaints of discrimination aren't taken seriously." She noted that policemen present at the hearings were snickering throughout.

Last year, the Welfare Committee reversed its 3 year opposition to the bill and voted to send it to the City Council. However, the Council defeated the legislation after a massive campaign against it led by the Catholic Archdiocese of New York.

This year again, the campaign against the bill was led by the Archdiocese, who the NGTF has charged with inspiring the formation of front groups solely to lobby to deny civil rights to gay people.

"The Catholic Church is a very strong political block," Lottman explained. "They conducted a heavy propaganda campaign. Committee members were receiving letters 6-1 against the bill--and in some cases 150-1 against it."

Denouncing the committee's decision as the result of "political maneuvering and machine politics," she added, "they are making judgments not on the basis of civil rights but an irrational fear of homosexuality--like we were creatures from the black lagoon or something...I don't know who they think we are. Some of their statements were really disgusting."

Already several demonstrations have taken place in protest of the committee's decision.

The bill was scheduled to be reintroduced September 15 and the next hearings will be sometime in January. Meanwhile, Lottman predicts more demonstrations and efforts to organize a gay voting bloc within the city.

-30-

(See packet #718 for more on the PVC petition.)

FDA PLACES LIMITED BAN ON POLYVINYL CHLORIDE AS FOOD PACKAGING SUBSTANCE; CHEMICAL LINKED TO CANCER

NEW YORK (LNS)--The Food and Drug Administration banned the use of polyvinyl chloride plastic for certain food packaging purposes on August 28. Though the FDA did not acknowledge it, the ban apparently came as a response to a petition filed on July 1 by the Health Research Group, a Washington public interest group, seeking a ban on polyvinyl chloride (PVC) as a packaging material for all food, due to its cancer causing properties.

The FDA ruling will ban the use of PVC in plastic bottles containing food or beverages, and "rigid" and "semi-rigid" packaging devices such as those used to wrap luncheon meats. The food industry will still be allowed to use PVC film such as Saran Wrap to wrap fresh fruits and vegetables, however.

The FDA refused the HRG request that all food already packaged in PVC containers be recalled.

The Health Research Group (HRG) petitioned for the ban after the FDA took no action despite publicized findings that vinyl chloride--a dangerous cancer causing gas from which PVC is manufactured--leaked into food contained in PVC packages. In the ruling, the FDA said that they "agree that vinyl chloride poses certain risks to human health," and said particularly large concentrations of vinyl chloride were found in alcohol, luncheon meats stored in PVC containers, and food stored in PVC containers for long periods of time.

The FDA put off until a later time however, a ruling on whether to ban PVC as a water pipe material. Indoor water pipes for most new housing contain PVC, but the FDA says "very little" vinyl chloride enters the tap water supply this way. The HRG says that unlike most other toxic chemicals however, no known "safe limit" for cancer causing agents exists.

Approximately 150 million pounds of PVC is used for food packaging each year in the U.S., and over 850 million pounds for water pipes. More than 20 per cent of the food packaging at the time of the ban contained PVC.

Despite the limited nature of the ban and the availability of other plastics, a spokesperson for the Society of Plastics Industry which lobbied against the ban said, "we believe the commission (FDA) acted with 'undue panic'" and that "there is practically no possibility of vinyl chloride migration into food" from PVC containers.

The major producers of PVC, including Tenneco, Occidental Petroleum, B.F. Goodrich, Goodyear and Firestone Tire and Rubber, announced they will go to court seeking a reversal of the FDA ban.

--30--

(The following article can be used to update recent LNS stories on environmentally caused cancers in packets #717 (flagyl), #718 (polyvinyl chloride), #667 (red-dye #2), and #706 (the National Cancer Institute study).

THREE MORE WIDELY USED CHEMICALS LINKED TO CANCER

NEW YORK (LNS)--Over the summer, three widely used chemicals were added to the growing number of known or suspected cancer causing agents. The findings come on the heels of recent findings that other widely used agents such as polyvinyl chloride (a plastic), flagyl (a drug used to treat vaginal infections) and red dye #2 (a commonly used food dye) are also carcinogenic (cancer causing).

Trichloroethylene (TCE), a widely used industrial solvent to which hundreds of thousands of chemical workers are exposed, was one of the latest substances found suspected of causing cancer by the National Cancer Institute, a government agency. TCE is used among other things, to extract caffeine from coffee. General Foods, the largest producer of decaffeinated coffee denied TCE was a hazard to consumers, but announced it would switch to methylene chloride, a substance not yet tested by the NCI. So far, no action has been taken against the widespread industrial use of TCE.

Another widely used substance, ethylene dibromide, an additive used in almost all gasoline, was identified as a powerful carcinogen in animals tested by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), another federal government agency.

And a study conducted by Bruce Ames of the University of California, found an unusually high incidence of lung cancer among beauticians using commercial hair-dyes, leading the researcher to conclude that one or more of the components in hair dye, too, cause cancer.

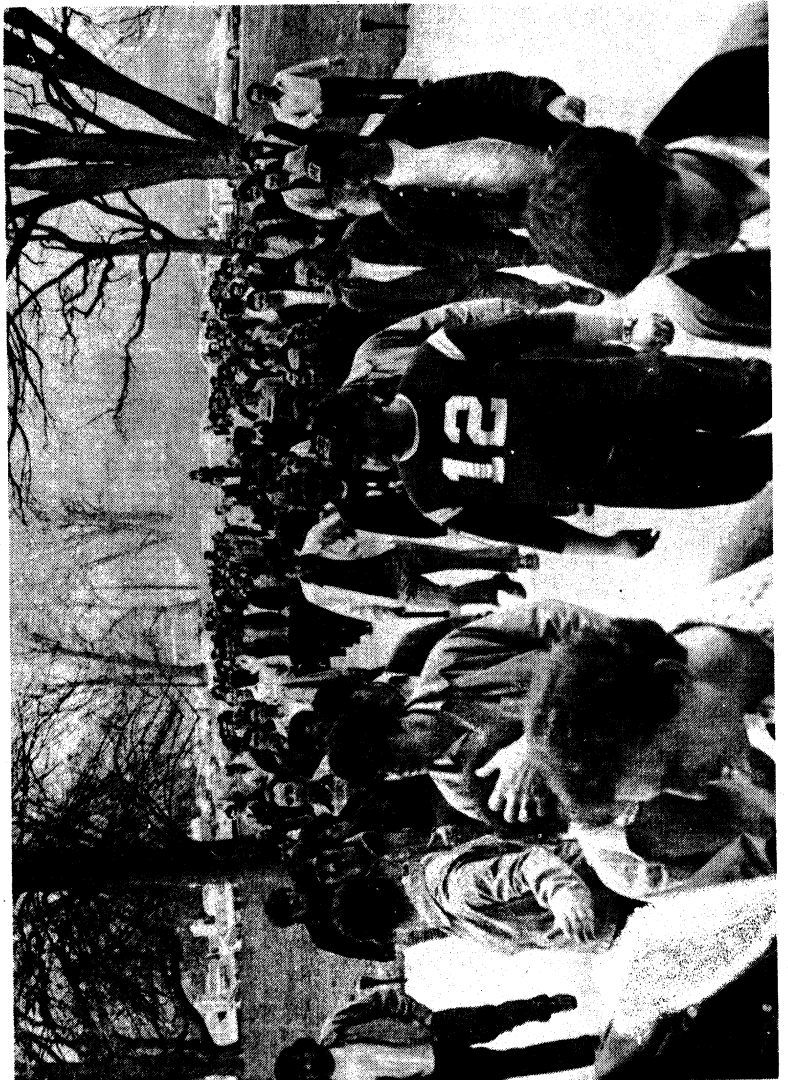
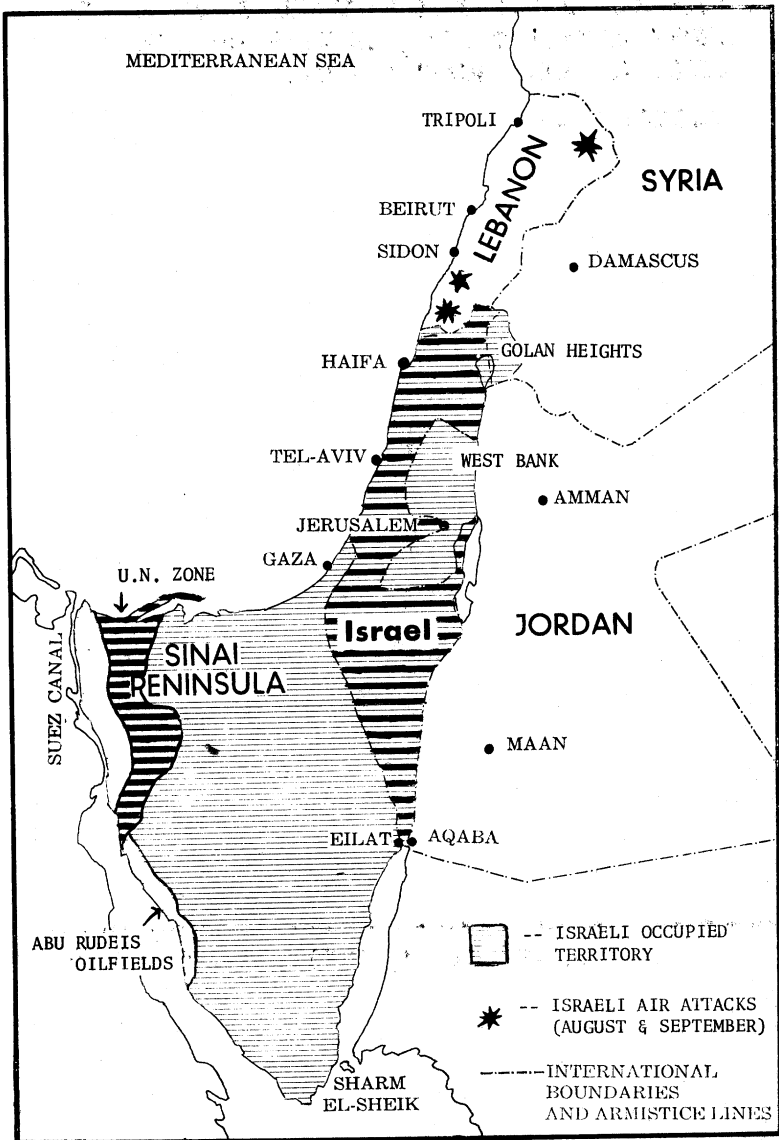
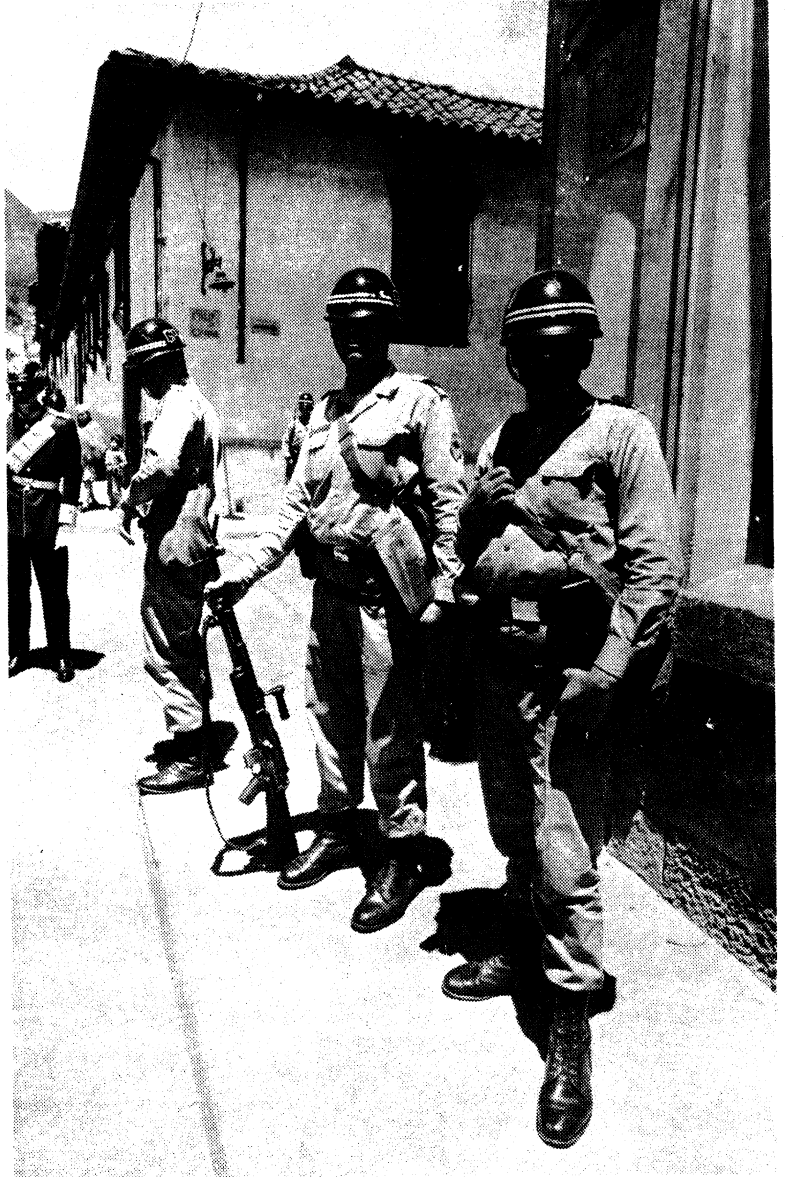
These findings tend to confirm the belief of many scientists that the high incidence of cancers in industrial countries are due to environmental factors. Earlier in 1975 the National Cancer Institute released a study known as the "Atlas of Cancer Mortality for U.S. Counties" (available free from the NCI), which showed the rate of various cancers in each county in the U.S. during the period 1950-1971. The study showed a variety in the rate of cancer throughout the U.S. with the highest rate in Salem County, New Jersey, a chemical manufacturing region adjacent to Philadelphia and Wilmington, Delaware. The study concluded that there was a "strong correlation between cancer deaths and the locations of various industries" and other environmental factors.

- 30 -

RECYCLED PENTAGON SPOKESMEN

NEW YORK (LNS)--Former spokesmen for the Department of Defense never die -- they just fade in and out of the newspaper business. Jerry Friedheim, famous for his lies and distortions while serving as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs during the Vietnam War, resigned in September of 1974.

But now, after a brief stint with Amtrak, Friedheim has become executive vice president and general manager of the American Newspaper Publishers Association. The man whom Friedheim replaced, Stanford Smith, is a major general in the Army Reserve who resigned in order to return to active duty at the Pentagon.



UPPER RIGHT: Photo taken in Colombia in the summer of 1970 when Colombian troops were called out to quell possible demonstrations prior to the presidential inauguration. In the weeks prior to the inauguration, there had been rioting in parts of the city, which the army, equipped with U.S. jeeps and other military hardware, had put down.

SEE STORY STARTING ON PAGE 1 OF THIS PACKET (#730).

CREDIT: Howie Epstein/LNS

UPPER LEFT: September 14, 1975 New York demonstration against the recent Sinai agreement.

SEE STORY IN THIS PACKET AS WELL AS PACKET #728.

CREDIT: LNS

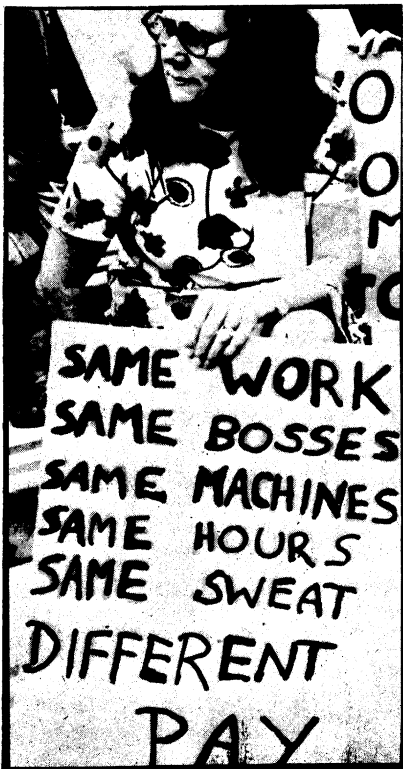
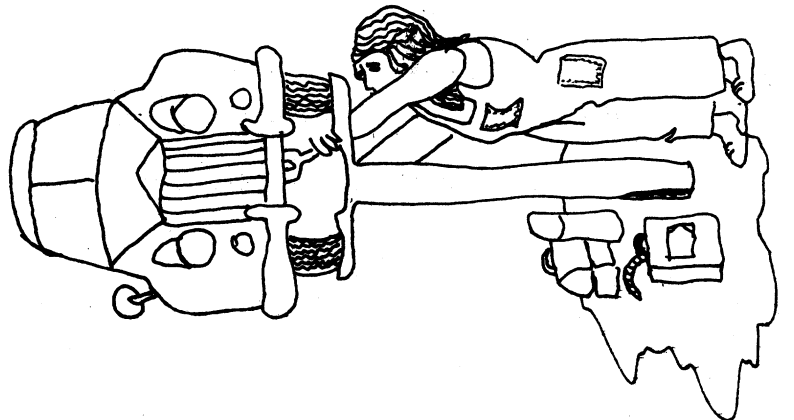
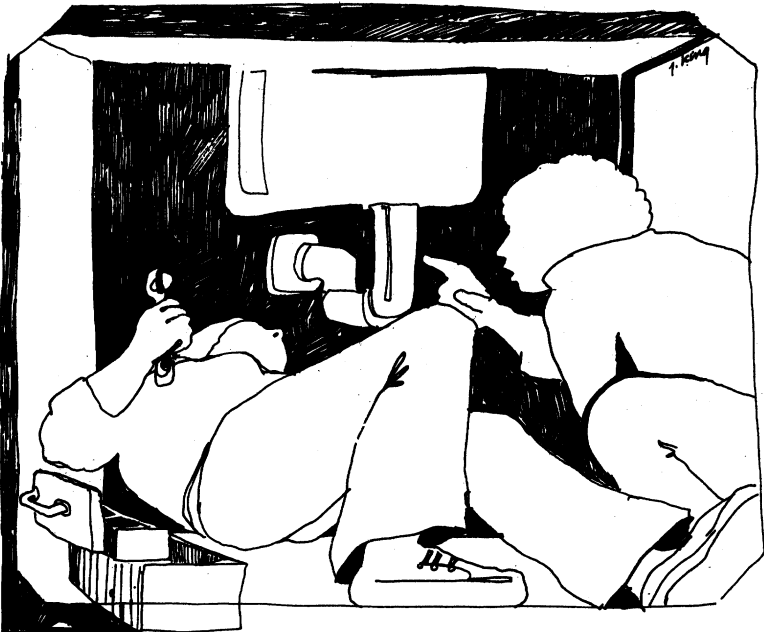
LOWER RIGHT: Photo of West Virginia miners last March during a wildcat strike in protest of gasoline cuts. West Virginia coal miners initiated recent wildcat strikes over grievance procedures that spread to five states and eventually involved 80,000 miners.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 3 OF THIS PACKET (#730).

LOWER LEFT: Map showing recent demarcation lines agreed to by Egypt and Israel, and areas of recent aerial bombing in Lebanon.

THIS MAP MAY BE USED WITH THE SINAI ACCORD STORY IN PACKET #728, OR WITH THE LEBANON STORY IN THIS PACKET (#730).

CREDIT: LNS



Why We Oppose Votes For Men

1.

Because man's place is in the army.

2.

Because no really manly man wants to settle any question otherwise than by fighting about it.

3.

Because if men should adopt peaceable methods women will no longer look up to them.

4.

Because men will lose their charm if they step out of their natural sphere and interest themselves in other matters than feats of arms, uniforms and drums.

5.

Because men are too emotional to vote. Their conduct at baseball games and political conventions shows this, while their innate tendency to appeal to force renders them particularly unfit for the task of government.

—Alice Duer Miller, 1915

Alice Duer Miller, the American novelist and poet, lived from 1874 to 1942.



Charles Dore Gibson

A FEATURE PAGE OF GRAPHICS ABOUT WOMEN

TOP RIGHT: Judo.

TOP LEFT CREDIT: Ron Cobb.

CREDIT: URPE Newsletter/LNS

MIDDLE RIGHT: An auto mechanic.

MIDDLE LEFT: Plumbers.

CREDIT: WOMEN (Lenox, Ma:)/LNS

CREDIT: S./PANDORA/LNS

BOTTOM RIGHT: A rebuke to men who
criticized giving the vote to women.
Written by Alice Duer Miller in 1915.

BOTTOM LEFT: Photo.

CREDIT: TRIBUNE/LNS

CREDIT: Alice Duer Miller/Charles Dana
Gibson/LNS